

2002 BLM IHC SUPERINTENDENTS WORKSHOP

11/12/02 – 11/13/02, BOISE, ID

NOTES

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

- McDonald will make changes and forward to crews.

CREW UPDATES ON 2002 SEASON

- The average start date was 5/1/02 and the average lay-off date was 10/01/02.
- All crews had, what sounded like, a successful season. There were a couple of serious injuries resulting in time away from the crew (sprained knee, sawyer hit by snag) and only one season ending injury, a blown knee. There was an uncommon amount of various illnesses with-in the crews.
- There will be various openings on the crews for PFT and WAE positions for the 2003 season. These will hopefully be filled through a roster if not they will be filled through detailers from the Boise Smoke Jumper program.

Side Bars During Updates

Additional days off

- Several crews took additional days off during the 2002 season in order to keep the crew fresh. They noticed an improvement in crew moral.
- Other crews are considering options for this that they may implement during the 2003 season.

Seasonal 1039 Hours

- Some crews expressed concern over the 1039. La Rue confirmed that in addition to the 1039 each SS# can be allowed 80 hours for training in any given year. This could bump max hours for seasonals to 1119 hours.
- For a **true** rookie there is an allowance for 640 training hours in a year. However this would work

Bullard Hardhat Concerns

- Bonneville shared their concern with the current plastic NFPA approved hardhat. They experienced several hardhats that where structurally weakened to the point of being ineffective after only 1 ½ seasons. They wanted to give a heads up to the other crews.
- The use of fiberglass hardhats was discussed. La Rue gave a hand out confirming that the fiberglass model 502 hardhat are not NFPA compliant.

CLASS 'C' FALLER CERTIFICATION

- Isaac Shinkel gave an update on where this process was. Bonneville utilized this process for the 2002 season and felt that it worked well for them.
- As for making this a BLM standard the idea was put on the back burner to heavy opposition from sources outside the group.
- Faller certification will remain at the Line Manager level. The faller task books created by Bonneville will be an option for each crew to create a certification paper trail.
- For additional 'C' faller certification/experience there is a BIA contact, Dave Koch. Dave Koch/BIAFIRE/NIFC/DOI

VIEW/DISCUSS CREW CARRIERS

- Stroud and Utech from NIFC equipment shop were in attendance.
- Snake River and Ruby Mountain had one crew carrier each on site.
- Bonneville, Ruby Mountain (S&S) and, Snake River (Phoenix) were the three crews with the smaller crew carriers during the 2002 season. Each crew was pleased with the overall performance of the smaller crew carrier.
- Each crew will provide a write up to Stroud discussing the positive uses of the smaller carriers in order to help justify the use of three carriers per crew.
- Costs per carrier are (listed cheapest to most expensive per seat)
 - BME 10 person - \$84,000 each
 - S&S 7 person - \$84,000 each
 - Phoenix 6 person - \$77,000 each
- These smaller carriers will be up for replacement in 12 years or at 80,000 miles. Obviously that means 80,000 miles.
- Each crew is responsible to notify the equipment shop when the crew carriers are at 60,000 miles to allow for time to order and have the carrier arrive when needed.

S-131 REWITE

- Contact Nate Lancaster with any suggestions by 1/1/03.

SEASONAL UPGRADES

- Seasonal firefighters who wish to be considered for an upgrade must apply to the seasonal roster using the approved application process for whatever state they are applying to.

GS-6 SENIOR FIREFIGHTER PD

- Was not classified at the national level.
- Each state can classify and announce the position. CA has already done so, NV is in the process.

NMACC

- La Rue gave an over view of how crews are ordered etc at the NMACC level during fire season. He also fielded questions that pertained to the subject.

BLM IHC INSIGNIA

- Anderson showed what he had for a BLM IHC insignia. Some crews may use some may not.

STEX/TDG

- Gogna gave an overview of STEX.
 - BLM has been involved for 1 ½ years
 - Great tool for developing decision skills in up and coming leaders in the fire organization. Gives the trainee the chance to feel the pressure of leadership in the classroom environment prior to going to the field.
 - Unlimited amount of scenarios.
 - Great tool versus the standard exercises in s classes.
 - STEX will be utilized in S courses in the near future to replace basic paper exercises
 - There were two train the trainer classes in Boise in October. There maybe a need to provide a couple of BLM train the trainer classes in the near future.

- Gogna had a handout about the new fire leadership website and the up and coming fire leadership training courses.
- Gogna took the group to the Smoke Jumper loft to look at a sand table that had already been created.

QUICKHIRE

- Grant Beebe with the Boise Jumpers is the rep to the quickhire committee for the BLM IHC group. Contact Grant or Randy Anderson with any concerns.
- There will be various changes to quickhire for the 2003 season application.
- The group agreed that an IHC specific announcement would be beneficial. This will not happen this year but try again for next year.
- Be prepared for this to be the only hiring method in the future.

SAFETY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (SMIS)

- The new accident and injury reporting system.
- Crews are required to submit the appropriate information for accident and injuries via this web based form with-in 72 hours of an accident or injury.
- Report all accidents and injuries
- Report all property damage resulting in cost over \$500.
- In addition, all crews will submit a supplemental list of accidents/injuries to Michelle Ryerson-Grett by 11/25/02. Questions call her at (208) 387-5175.

MCS FIRELINE LEADERSHIP CLASSES

- There will be no IHC specific FLL class for 2003.
- The MCS web site lists dates and locations for FLL classes.

SUPT QUALS

- No need to change minimum supt. quals.

PT STANDARDS

- Consensus was to propose that the minimum fit to work PT standards be instituted as a standard condition of hire for BLM IHC's.
- McDonald will have the led on this.
- Included will be specific documentation on why changes should be implemented. For example, Sharkey Fit to Work studies.

0401 SERIES QUALS.

- Need 18 semester hours of upper level classes to qualify.
- Randy Anderson is signed up to take some correspondence courses to work towards this.
- State offices should be willing to cover tuition etc. to take classes at a local college or through correspondence.
- There is always TFM

EMT/EPI PINS

- Not much interest.
- O'Brien will research how AK crew go about EMT quals and are qualed to carry EPI pins. Interested parties can contact him for info.

R&R CHARGE CODE

- Charge R&R days to hours code 060 and sub-activity 0999-77.
- Instituted to relieve some liability concerns while an employee is on R&R in pay status.

2:1 WORK/REST

- Consensus of the group was that the policy instituted for the 2002 season needs some revision.
- Gogna will have the led on this. Get any suggestions to him ASAP.
- Included will be specific documentation on why changes should be implemented. For example, DOD Work/Rest studies.
- Suggested revisions will be forwarded to the Safety And Health Working Group through appropriate channels. State Ops Groups etc.

25 PERSON CREW OPTION

- No negative impacts were encountered by the crews that utilized this option during the 2002 season.
- There was much positive feedback from the crews that went this route.
- Each crew that utilized this option will present a write-up to their State Ops Group and FMO's describing the benefits that were encountered during the 2002 season.

BUDGET

- All crews need to submit spreadsheets to La Rue that accurately capture the funds required to operate a hotshot crew.
- Without accurate cost accounting it will difficult to justify an increase in the IHC base budget.
- We will not see an IHC specific cost code anytime in the near future. Tracking an IHC's budget will be simplified when we do.
- Speculation on FY2003 BLM IHC budget: 470 – 500K w/30K add-on for additional persons.

TRAINING

- Jim Cook stopped by to visit with the group about training.
- New fire leadership website. www.fireleadership.gov
 - Refresher material available.
 - Leadership toolbox has useful material.
- There was interest from the group in being subject mater experts.
 - Point of contact: Deb Epps. She runs NWCG training group. (208) 387-5745.
 - Revision dates for RX, WF, BLM specific classes are on the NWCG website.
 - Home unit will have to cover most of the costs for SME's.

SPRING BURN MODULES

- **A** – Jackson will provide: Foreman, Assistant, six crew persons and one vehicle
- **B** – Jackson will provide: Foreman, Assistant, four crew persons and one vehicle, Bonneville will provide: two crew persons
- **C** – Silver State will provide: Foreman, Assistant, four crew persons, Ruby Mountain will provide: two crew persons, Bonneville will provide: one vehicle
- **D** – Forman will be: Roach – two weeks, Kirby – two weeks, Mathieson – two weeks, Ruby Mountain – two weeks, Assistant will be Chena – four weeks, Bonneville – four weeks, Bonneville – one crew person, Vale – two crew persons, Diamond – one crew person, Chena – one crew person, Ruby Mountain – one crew person. Bonneville will provide one vehicle.
- Kurt will check on the use of AD employees.

- All pending upon FWS paying base eights etc.
- Dates of commitment: 1/20/03 – 3/10/03.

ETHICS

- No written code of Ethics is needed at this time. Crews will be open to constructive criticism through open communication channels.

UNIFORMS

- Consensus is that crews would like to pursue a uniform policy that would allow us to purchase crew uniform out of our budget.
- Roach will have the lead on seeing if this can be done.

ADDITIONAL

- Questions regarding facilities. Contact Terry O'Connell (208) 387-5883
- Gil Dustin relayed that if crews have any comments or suggestions for IMT's he is willing to carry forward.
- La Rue passed out literature on cross billing for projects.
- Crew Boss Academy.
 - No need for instructors.
 - 5 – 6 slots may be available for students.
 - Handout from La Rue: course description, how to apply, contacts, etc.

ELECTIONS

- McDonald will be Chair through 2004 workshop.
- Merrill will be Deputy Chair through 2004 workshop.